

TRACING FATAL DRUGS.

Expert Chemists Mott and Scheele Testify in Mrs. Fleming's Trial to Their Discoveries of Poisons in Her Effects and in Mrs. Bliss's Stomach.

By Edgar Saltus.

scribed as a clam. In the process to which the sediment was subjected "mirrors" were obtained and the presence of antimony and arsenic discovered. With the bottle of vomit and the cologne sponges the witness declared the results to have been practically similar, and stated that the processes to which the exhibits had been subjected were those approved by the best authorities, including himself.

Mr. Brooke moved that the entire evidence be stricken out. The motion was not sustained. The cologne bottle was handed to the jury that they might see the sediment of arsenic in it, and the witness was invited to tell of his discoveries in detail.

DETAILS OF POISONS FOUND.

"In the stomach," he then said, "I found .663 grains of white arsenic and of antimony, calculated as tartar emetic, 1.446 grains. From the contents of the stomach preserved in the cologne bottle I separated 13.1-3 grains of arsenic and of antimony, calculated as tartar emetic, 229 grains. The actual quantity of arsenic separated from the bottle marked 'Contents of stomach' in combination with the amount of arsenic separated from one-half the stomach was 13.3511 grains. The total amount of antimony was 2563 grains—13.1-3 grains of arsenic and one quarter of a grain of antimony.

"I submitted the contents of the pitcher of a qualitative analysis, to the test known as Kline's. The precipitate I obtained I tested in the Marsh apparatus and found the presence of both arsenic and antimony.

"What did you do with the vomit?"
A.—The vessel contained about four cubic centimetres of liquid of a dark red, brown color—nearly black. I took two cubic centimetres of the liquid equal to 12-100 cubic inches. I added to this hydrochloric acid and boiled it. I then allowed it to stand fifteen hours. I introduced two strips of copper and found them slightly coated with an alloy. I obtained a yellow arsenic arsenite. I then boiled the strips with sodium. After passing them through the usual process I obtained both arsenic and antimony.

Subsequently Professor Mott stated that on December 3 Assistant District-Attorney Miller and Acting Inspector McCullagh handed him other articles, including a tea tray, a Japanese vase, some lumps of sugar, a portion of carpet, cut, as he was told, from one of the rooms at the Colonial Hotel; the cover of a tin can and a second piece of carpet.

A PASSAGE AT ARMS.

"Did you examine the tea tray?"
"I did."
"There is not," Mr. Brooke interrupted, "the slightest particle of evidence that this defendant ever saw this tray in her life, or that she ever knew of its existence. Your Honor will remember when this thing was marked for identification that it was to be subject to review later. This defendant knows nothing of this, or any circumstance that has been related in connection with it. I object to its introduction now."

Persimmon did not run faster than Mr. McIntyre's tongue when he began his reply, but presently the pace slackened and a speech unrolled, sonorous in emphasis, rounded in period, rhetorical in effect. As an answer it was excellent as an effort. It was brilliant, and in the delivery he held the audience, as sometimes you may have seen an actor hold an entire house, entranced. Mrs. Fleming alone was apathetic.

"It was testified by Charles A. Anderson," said Mr. McIntyre, "that on June 8, 1895, this defendant occupied rooms Nos. 71 and 73 at the Colonial Hotel. It has been shown that she continued to occupy the premises from that time to September 8. On September 4 an officer went to the rooms and saw there that tea tray. It is not necessary that actual physical possession should be shown. It is sufficient for the purposes of the trial to establish constructive possession. And I submit that, upon the evidence, there is sufficient from which a just inference can be drawn that the defendant at the bar was in possession of everything in the rooms at that time.

"It has been ruled over since the existence of our jurisprudence that evidence of this character found immediately after the commission of crime, in the constructive possession of an accused person, is such as must be submitted to the jury. And I submit that this is competent proof, and that the people may show that a tea tray was found in those rooms, and upon analysis of something upon the surface a certain deadly drug was found that corresponded with a certain deadly drug found in the pitcher, and connect other evidence here, as a means and as a circumstance of the physical commission of crime as charged in the indictment upon the defendant at the bar."

BROOKE'S UNAVAILING REPLY.

After that leisurely fashion which he sometimes affects, Mr. Brooke rose in reply.

"If Your Honor will observe my objection was that nothing has been produced to show that Mrs. Fleming ever had possession of the article from which an analysis was made. No witness saw it removed from her room. Mrs. Fleming was arrested and taken away from those rooms, and never afterward returned to them. Mr. Anderson, the manager of the hotel, gave instructions to one of his employees to take her effects from rooms Nos. 71 and 73, and they were removed to the storeroom. Anderson never went in to examine what the effects were. His testimony admits this. And sometime afterward, when Acting Inspector McCullagh, another officer and Dr. Scheele, went to the hotel to examine the effects of Mrs. Fleming twenty-seven days after the defendant had ceased to occupy those rooms, and mean while they had been occupied by a number of other persons—Mr. Anderson took the visitors to the storeroom and said that Mrs. Fleming's effects were there. He could not designate them, and he had not seen them since they had been removed. Who knows what happened in the twenty-seven days? Where is the houseman who cleaned the rooms? Where is the servant who received instructions from Mr. Anderson to remove the articles? It is a case where you cannot assume, where you cannot offer a presumption of proof. I object to the introduction of this article of the defendant, where was it then? She would have applauded, had she dared. Not so the Recorder. He ruled with the prosecution.

And presently further expertness may identify the drugs found in the stomach and its contents with the drugs which Dr. Mott then proceeded to testify he discovered among the defendant's effects.

ARSENIC ON A TRAY.

The tray was put in evidence and the witness told what he had done with it.

"I established the fact that white arsenic existed on its surface and that antimony was also a constituent and existed as tartar emetic. Some parts of the tray had tartar emetic in greater quantities than arsenic, and vice versa."

The introduction of a broken Japanese vase was then objected to by Mr. Brooke on the ground that there was no evidence connecting it with the defendant.

"Inspector McCullagh," he said, "found this vase in a closet in a cellar a month after the defendant's arrest. It was pointed out to him by Manager Anderson, of the hotel. Some one else had pointed it out to Anderson."

Mr. Brooke was overruled, and the vase was handed to Dr. Mott, who said that he recognized it as one given to him by Acting Inspector McCullagh and Seaman H. Miller, of the prosecution.

"When you examined it, what did you find?" asked Dr. O'Sullivan.

"I found an incrustation inside, which I dissolved in water and acid."

"What did you find as a result of the dissolution?"

"Arsenic."

The witness produced a small bottle, which he said contained a part of the incrustation taken from the vase. Another bottle containing arsenous sulphate produced from a test of the incrustation in the vase was also offered and admitted in evidence.

SUGAR RULED OUT.

A jar containing about a dozen cubes of loaf sugar was produced. Dr. Mott identified it, saying that he had received the sugar in a package from Inspector McCullagh and Mr. Miller, on December 3.

Mr. Brooke objected the introduction of the sugar on the ground that there were no characteristics by which it could be identified.

Another glass jar Dr. Mott said contained a piece of carpet, which when it was delivered to him by Inspector McCullagh and Mr. Miller, with the other articles, was marked, "Carpet, from back room." Dr. O'Sullivan tried to find out if any poisonous substances had been discovered in it, but Mr. Brooke objected and was sustained. Dr. O'Sullivan finally asked that the carpet be marked for identification. Mr. Brooke objected, and Mr. McIntyre said:

"I think, Your Honor, that the offering in evidence of the carpet is getting too near the danger line, and the prosecution is willing that it should be left out."

CARPET ALSO OUT.

The Recorder assented, and the carpet was thrown out. The cover of an oyster can was produced, Mr. Brooke objecting, as before, but was not sustained.

"What was the result of your chemical examination of this exhibit?" Dr. O'Sullivan asked.

"I found antimony in it," the witness answered.

Another piece of carpet—this time from the front room—was handed to the witness,



and Dr. O'Sullivan asked that it be marked for identification.

"I object," said Mr. Brooke. "This piece of carpet."

But the Recorder ruled it out before Mr. Brooke could finish.

The cross-examination of Professor Mott lasted precisely four minutes.

"How long did it take you to analyze the contents of the stomach?"

"I began on November 11. My qualitative examination ended November 22."

"How much time did the analysis of the stomach occupy?"

"From November 12 to December 3."

"Did you examine for volatile or vegetable poisons and for ptomaines?"

"No."

"That is all, sir."

And the witness, leaving the stand, took with him the respect of every one.

EXPERT SCHEELE'S TWO HOURS.

Dr. Walter T. Scheele, a competent person, with an Austrian air, a German accent and Swabian lisp, was then called and recited his degrees, honors and qualifications for expertness as though he were eating trifles to the sound of trumpets.

When examined about matters other than himself he became entirely inaudible. Dr. O'Sullivan asked indulgence for him on the ground that he had not been well. From the interest manifested in him by the defence it is fair to assume that when

he is turned over to them they will give him a little medicine.

In his examination, which lasted two hours, he stated that a portion of the stomach had been submitted by the District-Attorney to him, and that from it, by analysis, he had separated crystals of trioxide weighing seven grains. He further stated that he had resorted to every known test, and that the only response through the reagents was antimony and arsenic.

Meanwhile, throughout the entire day, the composure of the defendant was significant. Twice only did she betray emotion. Once when Professor Mott told of the cutting of her mother's stomach, and once when Mr. Brooke argued against the admission of the chattels taken from her rooms. Whether she heard, and whether in hearing she heeded, she alone can tell. There are women whom it would take a dictionary to understand, and Mrs. Fleming is one of them.

Another Stetson Claimant.

Boston, June 4.—Another claimant has appeared for the estate of the late John Stetson, Jr., in the person of Mrs. Catharine Shirley, of Kansas City, Mo., who claims, through her lawyer, to be the daughter of the late Mrs. John Stetson by her first husband, Carl Anthony. That the late Mrs. Stetson when Mrs. Anthony had a child is conceded by Mrs. Stetson's relatives, but they claim that the child died after living less than two years.

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